

## Message Text

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53

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMS-03 SS-20 L-03 NSC-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-10 EA-11 PA-04 PRS-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 221236Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8930

INFO SECDEF

USIA WASHDC

CNO

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS LONDON 03620

CNO, CINCPAC, CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, IO, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY COVERAGE

REF: LONDON 3536

1. MARCH 21 TELEGRAPH CARRIED REPORT OF FCO DENIAL OF STORY THAT "WHITEHALL HAS CANCELLED AMERICAN PLANS TO EXTEND AIR AND RADAR FACILITIES IN...DIEGO GARCIA". TELEGRAPH REPORTS THAT MATTER HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS.

2. FINANCIAL TIMES (FT) MARCH 2L CARRIES LONG ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON ON ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S MARCH 20 TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. ARTICLE IS HEADLINED "MAJOR STRATEGIC ROLE FOR U.S. BASE ON BRITISH UNCLASSIFIED

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ISLAND". FT SAYS "WITH ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S TESTIMONY TO-

DAY, ANY PRETENCE THAT THE U.S. IS ENGAGED IN A COMPARATIVELY MINOR OPERATION MUST BE DROPPED". FT NOTES THERE ARE "STRONG CONGRESSIONAL VOICES AGAINST THE EXPANSION" IN THE U.S.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT TAM DALYELL, LABOR MP AND WELL-KNOWN OPPONENT OF U.S. BASES, RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA IN PARLIAMENTARY SESSION MORNING MARCH 21. DALYELL'S QUESTIONS WERE PART OF SCHEDULED ALL-NIGHT SESSION IN WHICH BACK-BENCHERS ARE ALLOWED TO PUT QUESTIONS ON ANY SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT. MISS JOAN LESTOR, NEW JUNIOR MINISTER IN FCO, RESPONDED FOR GOVERNMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS; NO POSITION HAS BEEN BY HMG ON EXPANSION. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AT 4:00 A.M. MARCH 21. THERE WAS NO PRESS COVERAGE OF DISCUSSION BY AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21.

SOHM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, FINANCE, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, RADAR EQUIPMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION PM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** LONDON 3536  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DIEGO GARCIA PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY COVERAGE  
**TAGS:** MARR, IO, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005